

# Extended Phase One Habitat Survey (Preliminary Ecological Appraisal)

Version One. 10.10.2023

Prepared for: Quod  
Sovereign Phase 2

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## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Background to the project**

The client is proposing the re development of site in Wilson Road, Tarbock Green, Huyton requiring a refurbishment of the existing buildings.

### **1.2 Site location, context and main habitats**

The site is located within Huyton in an urban environment and enclosed by existing residential and commercial land uses. The habitat on site comprises of scattered trees, semi natural woodland, amenity grassland, scrub, introduced shrub and building including areas of hard standing access.

### **1.3 Report purpose**

To prepare a Preliminary Ecological Assessment or Extended Phase One Habitat Survey for the development site following CIEEM guidelines (*Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, April 2013*). The purpose of the report is to provide information relating to the location, extent and distribution and impact on the conservation of wild plants and animals and natural and semi natural habitats affected by development. This report sets out the methods, results and recommendations arising from the above work.

#### **1.3.1 Surveyor information**

Simon Brain has attained a Post Graduate Certificate in Biological Recording and has attended residential FSC Field Courses for Land mammal, Songbird Barn Owls (CIEEM) and Advanced Bird Survey Techniques. He holds a NE Class 2 bat license (17334-CLS). He has over ten years experience as a practice ecologist and 30 years experience as an arborist.

## **2. Desk Study**

### **2.1 Methodology**

The desk study collated information on designated statutory and non-statutory wildlife sites within 1km search radii around the proposed development site.

Information on statutory and non-statutory designated sites and legally protected/notable species records were obtained from <http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/MagicMap.aspx> and contained in section 2.2 below.

### **2.2 Designated sites, species and habitats - Results Overview**

Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website (<http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/MagicMap.aspx>) has confirmed no statutory designations apply to the site and the site boundaries.

The site is located within SSSI Impact Zone for Mersey Estuary SSSI which is located 6675m from site. The development proposal does not appear to conform to those development types that require the LPA to consult Natural England on the likely risks.

Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside website data has confirmed the following habitats and species apply to the site and its immediate locality:

- There are no section 41 habitats listed on the inventory on the site
- There are numerous areas of listed woodland within the 1km
- The site is outside the National Habitat Network All Habitats Combined (England)
- There are no important Bird Areas, Seabird considerations, or water and wetland considerations in respect of avian species.
- The closest granted European Protected Species (EPS) license application by Natural England was for bat species C-PIP;S-PIP;BLE;NATT approximately 750m from site.

### 3. Extended Phase One Habitat Survey

#### 3.1 Methodology and survey results

The site was visited on the 10/08/23 and a survey of the site was conducted using the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey 2010. Distinct habitats were identified and any features of nature conservation interest or habitat areas that were too small to map were subject to a more detailed description in a Target Note (T1 etc) and contained in Appendix 1 – Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Mapping and Appendix 2 – Vascular Plant Site List.

##### 3.1.2. Vascular Plants and Habitat

Table 1: Site habitats

| Habitat Code                    | Dominant species                                               | Less frequent species           |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| A.1.1.1 semi natural woodland   | Acer pseudoplatanoidies<br>Alnus glutinosa<br>Fagus sylvatica  | Populus sp                      |
| A.2. Scrub                      | Crataegus monogyna                                             | Prunus spinosa                  |
| A.3.1 Broadleaf scattered trees | Pinus sylvestris<br>Acer pseudoplatanoidies<br>Alnus glutinosa | Betula pendula<br>Prunus kanzan |
| J.2 Amenity grassland           | Lolium perenne<br>Poa annua<br>Ranunculus repens               | Bellis perennis                 |
| J.4 Introduced shrub            | Hebe sp<br>Berberis darwinii                                   |                                 |

**Target Notes** - None taken

### **3.1.3 Protected and Notable Species (Mammals)**

#### **Water Voles**

The habitat on the site does not contain running water habitat suitable for the species.

#### **Bat species**

Bats are comprehensively protected under UK and European legislation. Bats are largely ubiquitous there is green infrastructure linking the site to the wider landscape. The site contains foraging habitat. Trees remain unaffected by development. A commercial building is present on site that may have potential for roosting bats.

#### **Badgers and Hedgehog**

Badgers are protected under Schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, which prohibits deliberate interference with the animal or its sett. Badger records are present in the LRC data. A standard badger survey was undertaken making checks on site and in the immediate site margins. For example, up to 20m+ from site was checked for signs for field signs of Badger (hair, tracks, prints, dropping or latrines) and no field signs of badger were found. Equally no field signs were found for hedgehog, however suitable foraging habitat does exist due to the presence of trees and grassland and the semi urban nature of the site.

### **3.1.4 Amphibians**

The desktop and field survey exercises indicate no field ponds are located within 400m of the site. A single field pond is located at 410m from site which is separated from site by the M62. There is no aquatic breeding habitat associated with the site itself and sub optimal foraging, dispersal or

hibernating habitat for amphibians to be present. In addition the site is heavily landlocked.

### **3.1.5 Birds**

All birds with only minor exceptions are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), as amended. It is also an offence to disturb birds whilst nesting or displaying breeding behaviour, during the breeding season.

Urban birds may use the site such as house sparrow and starling which are birds of conservation concern.

### **3.1.6 Vascular Plants**

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 section 13 1(b) affords some wild flowers protection from uprooting. No other IUCN listed, BAP or other notable plants were identified.

### **3.1.7 Reptiles**

All native reptile species in the UK are protected under law from killing or sale. No habitat exists on the site for these species to be present.

## **3.2. Constraints to the Surveys**

The timing of the site visit was optimal for all species and habitats to be identified within the framework of a Phase 1 survey.

## **4. Summary and Impact**

### **4.1 Summary – Protected habitats**

The surveys have confirmed that the site does not support a habitat protected under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (*NERC*) Act 2006 - Habitats and Species of Principal Importance in England. There are no priority hedgerows on the site.

#### **Summary - Protected species**

No evidence of protected species was recorded on site. No other evidence of protected species was found during the site walkover.

#### **Summary – Protected sites**

There are no statutory or non-statutory designated sites within the boundaries of the development site or within the site margins.

#### **Impact – General**

The development proposal seeks to refurbish the building.

#### **Impact - Species**

The full extent of protected species that may reside on this site will require confirmation following further surveys as recommended in section 4.2. The following general impacts are considered to apply:

Bat species. No loss of commuting and foraging. The existing building to be refurbished may contain bat roosts.

Badger / hedgehog. Currently no evidence of badger, hedgehog has potential to be present on site.

Water vole. No impact considered likely.

Amphibians. No loss of sub optimal commuting and foraging habitat.

Birds. Loss of foraging habitat and disturbance during the breeding season.

Vascular Plants. No impact

Reptiles. Low-level impact due to site being landlocked and largely inaccessible to reptiles.

## **4.2 Recommendations for protected species**

### **4.2.1 Mammals**

#### **Bat species**

A Bat Roost Assessment of the building to be refurbished is required. The Bat Roost Assessment may recommend the need for a summer emergence survey/s on the identified roost features in the building. The site is not likely to hold great significance for commuting and foraging bat species.

#### **Badgers / hedgehog**

No evidence of these species was found but a pre start check shall be made to ensure no badger activity has developed since this walkover survey. Measures are required to incorporate hedgehog into the development plans.

### **4.2.2 Amphibians**

No other further surveys are required for these species.

### **4.2.3 Avian**

A breeding bird appraisal / survey will be required prior to any tree to removal ascertain the importance of the site to breeding birds at that time. This may require hand searching and dawn observations depending upon the time of year.

### **4.2.4 Vascular Plants**

No other further surveys are required for vascular plants.

### **4.2.5 Reptiles**

No further surveys are required for these species.

## **5. Recommendations, mitigation, enhancement measures**

### **5.1 Recommendations, mitigation, enhancement measures**

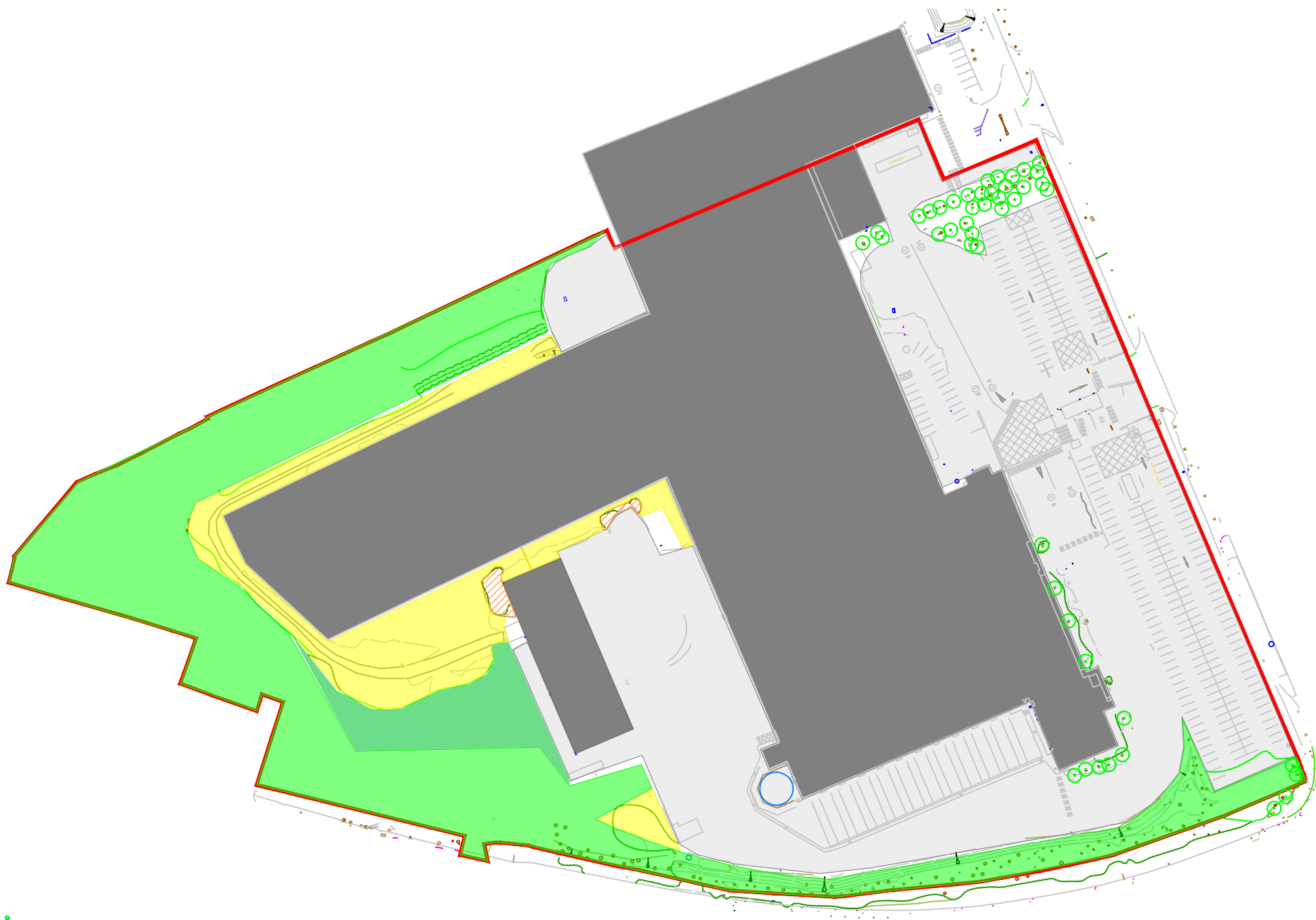
Mitigation applies to works required to comply with legislation when developing land where protected species reside, or protected habitats are being lost. Enhancement relates to biodiversity improvements often made under the National Planning Policy Framework.

At present there is no evidence of protected species on the site, which could be affected by development. Other protected species that may be present on site include bats, badgers and hedgehog.

The extent of protected species requires the surveys referred to in section 4.1 and 4.2 to be complete before mitigation can be proposed to support this development. Upon completion of these surveys mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures can be provided and confirmed.

The provision of a Biodiversity enhancement report and a Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment is considered to apply to the site in accordance with the NPPF guidelines and best practice.

## **Appendix 1 Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Map**



PHASE ONE HABITAT MAP

KEY

-  A.1.1.1 Semi Natural woodland
-  A.2. Scrub
-  A.3.1 Broadleaf scattered trees
-  J2 Amenity grassland
-  J4 Introduced shrub
-  J5 Building
-  J5 Hard standing urban sealed surface

① Target Notes. Refer to Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Client:  
QUOD

Project:  
Sovereign Phs 2

Detail:  
Phase One Habitat Map

Drawn By: SB      Date: 10.10.2023      Scale: NTS

Drg No: TR-01      Revision: V1

## Appendix 2 Site Vascular plant list

*Acer pseudoplatanus*  
*Acer platanoides*  
*Acer campestre*  
*Alnus glutinosa*  
*Arrhenatherum elatius*  
*Berberis darwinii*  
*Bellis perennis*  
*Betula pendula*  
*Buddleja* sp.  
*Chamerion angustifolium*  
*Convolvulus arvensis*  
*Corylus avellana*  
*Cupressus leylandii*  
*Crataegus monogyna*  
*Dactylis glomerata*  
*Epilobium parviflorum*  
*Fagus sylvatica*  
*Fraxinus excelsior*  
*Festuca rubra*  
*Galium aparine*  
*Geranium robertianum*  
*Hebe* sp  
*Hordeum glaucum*  
*Lolium perenne*  
*Plantago lanceolata*  
*Pinus sylvestris*  
*Populus nigra italica*  
*Poa annua*  
*Prunus kanzan*  
*Prunus spinosa*  
*Salix caprea*  
*Sorbus aucuparia*  
*Quercus robur*  
*Ranunculus repens*  
*Ribes* sp.  
*Rubus* agg.  
*Taraxacum officinale*  
*Trifolium repens*  
*Urtica dioica*